

competent to remedy all defects, and to make any changes that the necessities of trade might require.

Influenced then by these general principles which I believe to be sound, I come to the provisions of the bill before us.

The first Section differs from the Act of 1874, chapter 221, principally, so far as to reduce the license fee of the measurer of oysters, from ten dollars to five; and the compensation of the measurer from fifty cents to forty cents per hundred bushels. The second Section provides, "that the Governor shall appoint for the City of Baltimore five persons, to be known as General Measurers of oysters, for the ports of Crisfield and Annapolis, each, one person, to be known as General Measurer of oysters; each of the General Measurers of oysters shall give a bond to the State of Maryland, in the sum of three thousand dollars, for a faithful performance of his duties; it shall be the duty of said General Measurer to see that the licensed measurers properly measure the oysters, and that the law is complied with; all the licensed measurers shall be under the control of the General Measurers, and no licensed measurer shall measure any oysters unless authorized by said General Measurer; said General Measurers shall receive a compensation for the faithful performance of duty, of twenty-five cents per hundred bushels, to be paid by the seller; no General Measurer shall act twice in any district, until he has acted in every district; any person violating the provisions of this Act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction, shall be fined not less than twenty, nor more than fifty dollars for each offence, and imprisoned, until fine and costs are paid; and in addition to the foregoing penalty, for wilful neglect of duty, or refusing to do his duty, the General Measurer shall be civilly responsible."

The argument in favor of this provision is, that the parties who dredge and sell oysters, are entirely at the mercy of the wealthy packers, who control the licensed measurers, and great injustice is done in the measurement, to those who can ill afford to bear it. It appears to me, that even if the facts are true as stated, such a state of things could not long exist in an intelligent community, where, certainly one man is as free to protect his own interest as another. It may be, and doubtless is true, that there have been many instances in this trade, where the poor man has become the victim of one who is rich and unscrupulous, but it can scarcely be possible, that a whole class of traders can be so imposed upon by the oyster packers, that they can find no remedy or relief, other than a special law for their protection. Besides, in what way does this bill relieve them?

It is claimed that the appointees of the State would be im-